

REMARK

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-13, 17-18, 20-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kobachi et al. (US Patent No. 6,326,948). The above amendments cancel these claims, and hence, render this rejection moot.

Claims 4 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobachi et al. (US Patent No. 6,326,948) in view of Arita et al. (US Patent No. 5,504,502). Applicant traverses this rejection.

In making this rejection, the Examiner admits that Kobachi does not teach a restoring mechanism comprising a first magnet that is fixed to the puck and a second magnet that is fixed with respect to the puck field of motion. The Examiner looks to Arita as providing the missing teaching. Specifically, the Examiner looks to element 18 shown in Figures 7A and 8A as the first magnet and elements 14 and 14' as corresponding to the second magnet.

Applicant must disagree with the Examiner's reading of Arita. First, elements 14 and 14' are magnetic reluctance elements that generate a signal that depends on the magnetic flux through the element. There is no teaching in Arita that these elements contain a magnet, no less a magnet that is positioned with respect to magnet 18 and has sufficient strength to restore the puck to a predetermined area in the puck field of motion. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the Examiner has not made a *prima facie* case for obviousness with respect to Claims 4 and 19.

Claims 8, 14-16 and 23-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobachi et al. (US Patent No. 6,326,948) in view of Sherrieff (GB 2 247 938). The above amendments cancel Claims 14, 23, and 24, and hence, render this rejection moot with respect to those claims. Applicant traverses this rejection with respect to Claim 8 and submits that Claim 15, as amended above, is not obvious in view of the cited references.

Referring to Claim 8, the claim requires that the user sensor that detects an interaction between the user and the puck and which is part of the puck detects a change in capacitance associated with an electrode on the puck. The Examiner admits that Kobachi does not teach

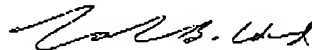
this limitation. The Examiner looks to Sherriff as providing the missing teaching. The Examiner argues that it would be obvious to replace the optically-based position sensor of Kobachi with the capacitive-based position sensor of Sherriff because the sensors are alternatives of each other.

The claim refers to the user sensor not the position detector. The capacitive system identified by the Examiner in Sherriff is one that measures the position of the puck in the field of motion, not the presence of the user. Hence, even if one were motivated to make the substitution suggested by the Examiner, the resultant device would not satisfy Claim 8. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the Examiner has not made a *prima facie* case for obviousness with respect to Claim 8.

Referring to Claim 15, the claims, as amended above, require that the position sensor operate by measuring the capacitance between the surface electrodes and the puck electrode. The device taught in Sherriff measures the capacitance between pairs of the surface electrodes. Hence, the combination of teachings does not satisfy the limitations of Claim 15. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 15 is not obvious in view of the cited references.

I hereby certify that this paper is being sent by FAX to 571-273-8300.

Respectfully Submitted,



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